

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 26 JUL 50

SUBJECT Food Supply in Bucharest

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1. Meat is made available to the population only on the eve of holidays. From time to time, lower jawbones of cattle are sold in the markets.
2. Bread is of uniformly poor quality. State stores sell for ten lei a small loaf weighing less than 100 grams. The peasant, on the other hand, receives four lei per kilogram for grain sold to the state.
3. During the winter of 1949-1950, from 500 grams to one kilogram of oil, depending on the ration category, was distributed to purchasers. With the approach of summer fat was distributed in place of oil.
4. After lengthy waits in queues, purchasers are occasionally able to purchase 100 grams of butter.
5. Almost all food must be purchased on the black market. The monthly cost of food for a family of two or three is 15,000 lei. A majority of salaried employees and workers earn from 4,000 to 10,500 lei per month. Laundry soap must be purchased on the black market since the soap distributed by the state stores is of such poor quality.

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